



HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON

A Harcourt Education Company

Holt and Henrico County Public Schools Announce Online Learning Project
Pilot Project to Use Holt Online Learning Textbooks

AUSTIN, Texas – February 11, 2004 – Holt, Rinehart and Winston and Henrico County Public Schools today announced that they are partners in a web- and PC-based learning project using online textbooks published by Holt.

“This is a very exciting project for Holt because so few schools have a 1-to-1 ratio of computers to students,” said Judy Fowler, president of Holt. “Without this type of student access, it is virtually impossible to measure the impact of online instruction. Textbooks in the Holt Online Learning series are already being well received in classrooms throughout the country so this new partnership enables us to measure their effectiveness as a core curriculum and collect feedback for further enhancements.”

Henrico County Public Schools received the 2003 Trailblazer Award from the National School Boards Association for its laptop education program which began in September, 2001. With this new partnership with Holt, Henrico educators hope to assess how to best help teachers and students adjust to delivery of the core content in an online format.

“The benefits of an online format for a textbook are already obvious – such as how much easier it can be to track student progress and to tie in current events education – however, we want to discover additional ways to make the use of online textbooks more effective,” said Dr. Mark Edwards, superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools. “This is a significant shift for teachers to make and we want to collect their feedback and enhance the learning experience for everyone.”

Holt Online Learning textbooks include every page of the printed version plus interactive tutors, classroom management tools, tests, journals, audio files, video files, and additional activities that engage students in the subject matter. These resources, coupled with the anytime, anywhere access made possible by the Internet, give an entirely new dimension to teaching. Holt, which has been publishing textbooks and supplementary materials since 1866, has been refining the model of online textbook delivery for a few years and currently publishes over 150 online textbooks in all five core subject areas including mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, and world languages.

Henrico students will have access to Holt’s online textbooks in most subject areas including such well-respected titles as *Elements of Literature*, *Holt Science & Technology*, *Holt Biology*, *Holt Call to Freedom*, *Allez, viens!*, and *Elements of Language*.

In June 2004, student progress will be evaluated against benchmark tests from January 2004. Efficacy studies will also be completed and focus groups will convene to discuss the results. The study,

conducted in grades 6-12, was made possible by the decision of the Henrico schools to equip every student in these grades with a laptop.

Note to editors: Interviews may be arranged with Henrico educators or Holt representatives by contacting Jennifer Harrison at 916-716-0636 or jennifer@JHarrisonPR.com.

About Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12 and is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit www.hrw.com or www.harcourt.com.

Harcourt Education is part of Reed Elsevier Group plc. (www.reedelsevier.com)

About Reed Elsevier

Reed Elsevier Group plc (www.reedelsevier.com) is a world-leading publisher and information provider. It is owned equally by Reed Elsevier PLC (NYSE: RUK) and Reed Elsevier NV (NYSE: ENL). Operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors, Reed Elsevier provides high value and flexible information solutions to professional end users, with increasing emphasis on the Internet. Building on its strong position in key markets and its established brands and content, the company is investing aggressively in the migration of its portfolio to electronic delivery, with links to a wide range of content-related services and transactional capabilities.

###

For More Information:

- Jennifer Harrison, for Holt, Rinehart and Winston: 916-716-0636, jennifer@JHarrisonPR.com
- Diane Hrechko, Holt, Rinehart and Winston: 512-721-7802, dhrechko@hrw.com
- Janet Binns, Henrico County Public Schools: 804-652-3724, jsbinns@henrico.k12.va.us